PIMELIAPHILUS ISOMETRI, A NEW SCORPION PARASITE FROM MANILA, P. I.

(ACARINA, PTERYGOSOMIDAE)

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This is the second true member to be described in the genus Pimeliaphilus, a parasitic genus of the family Pterygosomidae. The other species placed in this genus have been removed by the author to Hirstiella, which is discussed in another paper. The change was based on morphological and biological characters. Thus, in this genus we now have P. podapolypophagus Tragårdh, 1904, a cockroach parasite, and P. isometri, new species, a scorpion parasite, as the only two members. This scorpion parasite is of interest inasmuch as it is the second known species, and also because of the highly modified structure of the chelicerae in comparison with P. podapolypophagus Tragårdh.

Pimeliaphilus isometri, new species

(Figs. 1-4)Palpus (Figs. 1, 2) four-segmented with the terminal segment possessing a small round protruding thumb on which there are seven setae; three setae are pilose and pointed, two are smooth and pointed, and two are smooth and rod-like with one shorter than the other. The chelicerae extend far out beyond the rostrum and possess distally a long blade-like movable chela. Dorsal shield (Fig. 3) pentagonal in shape, wider anteriorly and tapering posteriorly, with three pair of setae; fourteen pairs of pilose setae on the dorsum with a separate eyeplate and a lens-like eye on the shoulder area. Two claws on the tarsi surrounded by long tenent hairs which are thickly grown together. They give the impression of being ray-like and seem to surround the entire claw. On the venter (Fig. 4) coxae I and II are fused and possess two pairs of setae. Coxae III and IV are also fused, with three setae. There is a large genital orifice flanked by three pairs of setae. The anal area which is just posterior and terminal to the genital area has two pairs of setae situated on plates on either side of the opening. There are eight pairs of setae on the venter of the hysterosoma exclusive of the coxae.

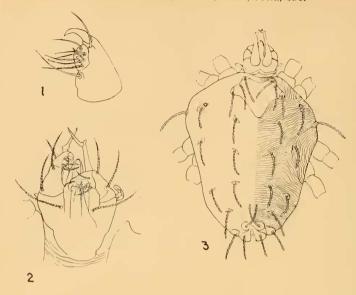
Length of body including rostrum: 486 μ.

Width: 322 μ. Nymph: Not known. Male: Not known.

Type host: Isometrus sp. (a scorpion).

Type locality: Manila, P. I.

Type: A female, U. S. National Museum No. 1851.



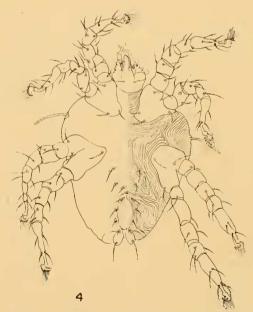


PLATE 10. FEMALE OF PIMELIAPHILUS ISOMETRI

Fig. 1, Apical segments of palpus; fig. 2, venter of rostrum; fig. 3, dorsal view (legs omitted); fig. 4, ventral view.